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FORMER U.S. ARMY SOLDIER SENTENCED TO 57 MONTHS FOR SHIPMENT OF CHILD PORN BY COMPUTER

Baltimore, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that today U.S. District Court Judge J. Frederick Motz sentenced Jamie Michael Chick, age 22, of Gunpowder, Maryland to 57 months in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release in connection with his guilty plea on October 8, 2004 to federal charges of interstate transportation and shipment of child pornography by computer.

On May 22, 2002, a detective from the Palos Heights Police Department, Palos Heights, Illinois, logged onto the Internet Relay Chat (IRC) using a law enforcement computer and entered a channel entitled #0!!!!!!!!!Preteen00. The detective noticed an individual using the screen name jdive1. The screen name was used by Chick. Chick was advertising that he had "pre pics" which means prepubescent pictures. The detective gained access via the internet to the defendant's computer hard drive and downloaded five image files.

On August 9, 2002 FBI agents served a federal search warrant executed at Chick's residence and seized a Gateway CPU belonging to the defendant and his wife. A forensic examination of

Chick's computer revealed that the computer contained over 2000 graphic image files of child pornography. Some of the image files reviewed contained known, identified child victims.

On September 30, 2003, the defendant was assigned to duty at the Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, ("the Institute") for the United States Army, Aberdeen, Maryland. On that date, an Army colonel saw Chick working at the computer at the Institute. The colonel noticed that Chick was using the computer to gain access to the internet.

On October 1, a civilian employee of the United States Army reported to her work post, located at the same desk used by Chick at the Institute. The employee observed that the printer connected to the CQ computer was out of paper. After placing paper in the paper tray of the printer, the first page printed from the CQ computer was an image of a nude young girl. The CQ computer was seized and examined forensically by the U.S. Army. Numerous images of nude and partially clothed pre-pubescent girls were found in the defendant's account.

On October 30, 2003, FBI and Defense Criminal Investigative Service agents interviewed the defendant. Chick admitted that he used the computer at the Institute, obtained access to the internet on September 30, 2003 and accessed the web sites to look at nude and "artistic" images of 10 to 13 year old girls. He reviewed printed images from the computer and identified over 50 images of nude and partially clothed pre-pubescent girls which he observed while using the computer. Chick admitted that three of images, all of nude minor girls engaged in sexually explicit conduct, had been on the computer seized from his home.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Andrew Norman.